

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 USIA-15 OPR-02 /032 W

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R 141504Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4805

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2889

FOR: CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CS

SUBJECT: IV MARIO FERNJSDEZ

REF: SAN JOSE UNCLASSIFIED 2618

1. RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR MARIO FERNANDEZ AND COLLEAGUES GERARDO GONZALEZ ARAYA AND JORGE ARTURO CASTRO HERRERA FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 VIA PA 510/542 ARRIVING WASHINGTON AT 3:50 P.M.

2. BIODATA ON ENGINEERS CASTRO AND GONZALEZ FOLLOWS:
JORGE ARTURO CASTRO HERRERA, BORN IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA SEPTEMBER 22, 1936; COSTA RICAN; MARRIED; CIVIL ENGINEER; ADDRESS, P.O. BOX 3631, SAN JOSE; PRESENT POSITION, CHIEF DEPT. OF CONTRACTED WORKS, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS; OTHER POSITIONS, CHIEF ENGINEER INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION; ASSOCIATIONS: ASSOCIATION OF CONFEDERATED ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS; KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, POOR; TRAVEL ABROAD, CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, MEXICO, U.S.A., CANADA, ECUADOR; PURPOSE OF VISIT: TO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF MASS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND URBAN ROAD NETWORKS. SECOND CANDIDATE: GERARDO GONZALEZ ARAYA, BORN IN ALAJUELA MAY 7, 1939; COSTA RICAN; MARRIED; CIVIL ENGINEER; ADDRESS, P.O. BOX 397, ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA; PRESENT POSITION, CHIEF MAINTENANCE ZONE IN ALAJUELA; OTHER POSITIONS SAME AS ABOVE FOR THE PROVINCE OF GUANACASTE; ASSOCIATIONS: ASSOCIATION OF CONFEDERATED ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS; KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, POOR;
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ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS; KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, POOR;

TRAVEL ABORAD, U.S.A., 1962; PURPOSE OF VISIT: SAME AS FERNANDEZ AND CASTRO. BOTH ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WILL ACCOMPANY IV FERNANDEZ AT NO COST TO CU.

3. MR. FERNANDEZ HAS SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWUNG PROGRAM, WHICH APPEARS TO BE REALISTIC AND APPROPRIATE BUT WHICH CAN OF COURSE BE ADJUSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION. DURING THEIR PRELIMINARY STAY IN WASHINGTON, THE THREE ENGINEERS WOULD APPRECIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE, THE INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION AND THE ASPHALT INSTITUTE. THEY SHOULD SPEND A DAY AT VIRGINIA STATE HIGHWAY DEPT. WITH EMPHASIS ON MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT, CEMENT STABILIZATION, ACCESS ROADS & CULVERTS. THEY SHOULD ALSO VISIT AT LEAST ONE AIRPORT -- DULLES IS PROBABLY BEST.

4. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23 THEY WOULD LIKE TO SPEND THREE DAYS IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPT. AND THE CAPITOL ENGINEERING FIRM, FOLLOWED BY TWO DAYS IN CHICAGO VISITING PORTLAND CEMENT.

5. BECAUSE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF RAIN, FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN COSTA RICA, MR. FERNANDEZ SUGGESTS A FOUR-OR-FIVE DAY VISIT THERE OBSERVING HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AND SECONDARY ROADS. THE VANCOUVER D.O.T. OFFICE COULD ARRANGE A PROGRAM. A WEEK'S VISIT TO CALIFORNIA MIGHT FOLLOW -- SAY FROM OCTOBER 6 TO 12 -- WITH OBSERVATION OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AROUND SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES, AND THE TRIP WOULD END IN MIAMI.

6. ALL THREE MEN SEEM YOUNG AND ADAPTABLE ENOUGH TO ENJOY WHATEVER SOCIAL AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS ARE OFFERED. THEY WOULD LIKE TO MEET FAMILIES, AND PRACTICE THEIR ENGLISH, VISIT MUSEUMNS, ATTEND CONCERTS AND SEE LOCAL SCENIC AND CULTURAL ATTACKIONS WHEN POSSIBLE. MR. FERNDNEZ WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO SEE NIAGARA FALLS AND THE SEQUOIA TREES.

7. ALTHOUGH MR. FERNANDEZ SPEAKS A LITTLE ENGLISH, THE SERVICES OF AN INTERPRETER WILL BE NEEDED. HE HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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WARNED, BY THE WAY THAT THE WEATHER WILL VARY FROM WARM TO CHILLY AND THAT HE SHOULD TAKE ALONG A TOPCOAT AS WELL AS A RAINCOAT.

8. ALL THREE CANDIATES HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR VISAS. PLEASE ADVISE CONCURRENCE WITH THIS VISIT AND CONFIRM PROGRAM WHEN ARRANGED.
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